

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
                                  )  
Plaintiff,                    )  
                                  )       NO. S1-4:20-CR-0432-1 SRC  
v.                             )  
                                  )  
KEITH AUSTIN,                )  
                                  )  
Defendant.                    )  
                                  )

**GUILTY-PLEA AGREEMENT**

Come now the parties and hereby agree, as follows:

**1. PARTIES:**

The parties are the defendant Keith Austin, represented by defense counsel Raphael Morris, and the United States of America (hereinafter "United States" or "Government"), represented by the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. This agreement does not, and is not intended to, bind any governmental office or agency other than the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. The Court is neither a party to nor bound by this agreement.

**2. GUILTY PLEA:**

**A. The Plea:** Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A), of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, in exchange for the Defendant's voluntary plea of guilty to Counts One and Two of the Indictment, the United States agrees that no further federal prosecution will be brought in this

District relative to Defendant's violations of federal law, known to the United States at this time, arising out of the events set forth in the Indictment.

**B. The Sentence:** The parties agree that the recommendations contained herein fairly and accurately set forth some guidelines that may be applicable to this case. The parties further agree that either party may request a sentence above or below the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines range (combination of Total Offense Level and Criminal History Category) ultimately determined by the Court pursuant to any chapter of the Guidelines, Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553, or any other provision or rule of law not addressed herein. The parties further agree that notice of any such request will be given no later than ten (10) days prior to sentencing and that said notice shall specify the legal and factual bases for the request. The parties understand that the Court is neither a party to nor bound by the Guidelines recommendations agreed to in this document.

**3. ELEMENTS:**

**A. Count One:** As to Count One, the Defendant admits to knowingly violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a) and 2, and admits there is a factual basis for the plea and further fully understands that the elements of the crime are:

- (i) The Defendant knowingly robbed a commercial establishment engaged in interstate or foreign commerce;
- (ii) The robbery involved approximately \$300 cash;
- (iii) The approximately \$300 cash was in the custody of an employee of the McDonald's; and
- (iv) the Defendant's actions affected commerce in some way or degree.

B. **Count Two:** As to Count Two, the Defendant admits to knowingly violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c) and 2, and admits there is a factual basis for the plea and further fully understands that the elements of the crime are as follows:

- (i) The Defendant aided and abetted Ronald Scott in the commission of the crime of armed robbery as set forth in Count One of the Indictment; and
- (ii) Prior to the commission of the robbery, the Defendant knew Ronald Scott possessed a firearm in furtherance of that crime; and
- (iii) Prior to the commission of the robbery, the Defendant knew Ronald Scott intended to brandish a firearm in furtherance of that crime.

4. **FACTS:**

The parties agree that the facts in this case are as follows and that the United States would prove these facts beyond a reasonable doubt if the case were to go to trial. These facts may be considered as relevant conduct pursuant to Section 1B1.3:

On September 18, 2019, the Defendant and Ronald Scott robbed the McDonald's Restaurant located at 1119 North Tucker, Saint Louis, Missouri, within the Eastern District of Missouri. The McDonald's located at 1119 North Tucker, Saint Louis, Missouri is a commercial establishment engaged in interstate or foreign commerce and buys and sells articles and commodities that have been previously transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

The manager of the McDonald's and two other employees were preparing food when the Defendant and Ronald Scott walked into the restaurant. Both men were wearing masks and one was wearing a grey backpack. The manager walked to the cash register area and observed the

Defendant and Ronald Scott opening a cash register drawer. The manager told the men to get away from the register, at which point Ronald Scott pointed a gun at the manager and told the manager to “get back.” The Defendant and Ronald Scott then removed the entire drawer from the cash register and fled the McDonald’s. The robbery affected commerce.

The Defendant and Ronald Scott left the McDonald’s in a silver Chevrolet Impala. The Defendant drove the Impala while Ronald Scott was a passenger. The Defendant and Ronald Scott removed the cash in the cash register drawer (approximately \$300) and threw the drawer in a nearby sewer.

A few days after the armed robbery, the Defendant was driving the silver Chevrolet Impala and was stopped by St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (“SLMPD”) officers to further investigate the aforementioned McDonald’s robbery. Officers discovered McDonald’s hats and a McDonald’s paycheck stub addressed to Ronald Scott in the Impala. Officers subsequently searched the Defendant’s home and located a grey backpack that looked like the backpack worn during the robbery. Located in the backpack were two masks, consistent with the masks worn during the McDonald’s robbery. SMPD detectives advised the Defendant of his *Miranda* rights and questioned him about the aforementioned McDonald’s robbery. The Defendant admitted that he and Ronald Scott committed the robbery because they needed money.

**5. STATUTORY PENALTIES:**

A. **Statutory Penalties:** The Defendant fully understands that the maximum possible penalties provided by law for the crimes to which the Defendant is pleading guilty are:

(i) **Count One:** imprisonment of not more than twenty years, a fine of not

more than \$250,000, or both such imprisonment and fine. The Court also may impose a period of supervised release of not more than three years.

(ii) **Count Two:** imprisonment of not less than seven years, but not more than life, consecutive to any other sentence imposed; a fine of not more than \$250,000; or both such imprisonment and fine. The Court also may impose a period of supervised release of not more than five years. **The Defendant fully understands that the crime to which a guilty plea is being entered requires a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of seven years consecutive to any other sentence imposed.**

## **6. U.S. SENTENCING GUIDELINES: 2018 MANUAL**

The Defendant understands that this offense is affected by the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the actual sentencing range is determined by both the Total Offense Level and the Criminal History Category. The parties agree that the following are the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Total Offense Level provisions that apply:

### **A. Offense Conduct:**

#### **COUNT ONE** **ARMED ROBBERY**

##### **(i) Chapter 2 Offense Conduct:**

(a) **Base Offense Level:** The parties agree that the Base Offense Level is 20 as found in Section 2B3.1(a).

(b) **Specific Offense Characteristics:** The parties agree that the following Specific Offense Characteristics apply: none known at this time.

##### **(ii) Chapter 3 and 4 Adjustments:**

(a) **Acceptance of Responsibility:** The parties recommend that two levels should be deducted pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1(a) because the Defendant has clearly demonstrated acceptance of responsibility. If the deduction pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1(a) is applied, and the Defendant is otherwise eligible, then the United States moves to deduct one additional level pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1(b)(2), because the Defendant timely notified authorities of the intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the United States to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the Court to allocate its resources efficiently.

The parties agree that if the Defendant does not abide by all of the agreements made within this document, the Defendant's failure to comply is grounds for the loss of acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1. The parties further agree that the Defendant's eligibility for a reduction pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1 is based upon the information known at the present time and that any actions of the Defendant which occur or which become known to the United States subsequent to this agreement and are inconsistent with the Defendant's acceptance of responsibility including, but not limited to criminal conduct, are grounds for the loss of acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1. In any event, the parties agree that all of the remaining provisions of this agreement remain valid and in full force and effect.

**COUNT TWO**  
**POSSESSION OF FIREARM IN FURTHERANCE OF ARMED ROBBERY**

(i) **Chapter 2 Offense Conduct:**

(a) **Base Offense Level:** The parties agree that the Base Offense Level is found in Section 2K2.4(b).

(b) **Specific Offense Characteristics:** The parties agree that the following Specific Offense Characteristics apply: none known at this time.

(ii) **Chapter 3 and 4 Adjustments:** Pursuant to Section 2K2.4(b) and Application Note 5, Chapters Three and Four do not apply. Therefore, as to Count Two, Defendant is not entitled to an acceptance of responsibility reduction under Section 3E1.1.

**B. Estimated Total Offense Level:** Based on these recommendations, the parties estimate that the Total Offense Levels are as follows:

(i) **Count One:** The parties agree that the Total Offense Level for Count One is 17, unless the Defendant is a Career Offender. Depending on the underlying offense and the Defendant's criminal history, the Defendant could be a Career Offender pursuant to Section 4B1.1. If the Court finds the Defendant is a Career Offender, the Total Offense Level may be higher and the Criminal History Category may be as high as Category VI. The Defendant has discussed these possibilities with defense counsel. Both parties reserve the right to argue that the defendant is or is not a Career Offender.

(ii) **Count Two:** The parties agree that with respect to Count Two, the Defendant will receive a mandatory minimum sentence of 84 months, which will run consecutively to any other sentence Defendant may receive.

**C. Criminal History:** The determination of the Defendant's Criminal History Category shall be left to the Court. Either party may challenge, before and at sentencing, the finding of the Presentence Report as to the Defendant's criminal history and the applicable category. The Defendant's criminal history is known to the Defendant and is substantially available in the Pretrial Services Report.

**D. Effect of Parties' U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Analysis:** The parties agree that the Court is not bound by the Guidelines analysis agreed to herein. The parties may not have foreseen all applicable Guidelines. The Court may, in its discretion, apply or not apply any Guideline despite the agreement herein and the parties shall not be permitted to withdraw from the plea agreement.

**7. WAIVER OF APPEAL AND POST-CONVICTION RIGHTS:**

**A. Appeal:** The Defendant has been fully apprised by defense counsel of the Defendant's rights concerning appeal and fully understands the right to appeal the sentence under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742.

**i. Non-Sentencing Issues:** The parties waive all rights to appeal all non-jurisdictional, non-sentencing issues, including, but not limited to, any issues relating to pretrial motions, discovery and the guilty plea.

**ii. Sentencing Issues:** In the event the Court accepts the plea and, after determining a Sentencing Guidelines range, sentences the Defendant within or below that range, then, as part of this agreement, the Defendant hereby waives all rights to appeal all sentencing issues other than Criminal History. Similarly, the United States hereby waives all rights to appeal all sentencing issues other than Criminal History, provided the Court accepts the plea and sentences the Defendant within or above the determined Sentencing Guidelines range.

**B. Habeas Corpus:** The Defendant agrees to waive all rights to contest the conviction or sentence in any post-conviction proceeding, including one pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255, except for claims of prosecutorial misconduct or ineffective assistance of counsel.

C. **Right to Records:** The Defendant waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 522, or the Privacy Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552(a).

8. **OTHER:**

A. **Disclosures Required by the United States Probation Office:** The Defendant agrees to truthfully complete and sign forms as required by the United States Probation Office prior to sentencing and consents to the release of these forms and any supporting documentation by the United States Probation Office to the United States.

B. **Civil or Administrative Actions not Barred; Effect on Other Governmental Agencies:** Nothing contained herein limits the rights and authority of the United States to take any civil, tax, immigration/deportation or administrative action against the Defendant.

C. **Supervised Release:** Pursuant to any supervised release term, the Court will impose standard conditions upon the Defendant and may impose special conditions related to the crime Defendant committed. These conditions will be restrictions on the Defendant to which the Defendant will be required to adhere. Violation of the conditions of supervised release resulting in revocation may require the Defendant to serve a term of imprisonment equal to the length of the term of supervised release, but not greater than the term set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3583(e)(3), without credit for the time served after release. The Defendant understands that parole has been abolished.

**D. Mandatory Special Assessment:** This offense is subject to the provisions of the Criminal Fines Improvement Act of 1987 and the Court is required to impose a mandatory special assessment of \$100 per count for a total of \$200, which the Defendant agrees to pay at the time of sentencing. Money paid by the Defendant toward any restitution or fine imposed by the Court shall be first used to pay any unpaid mandatory special assessment.

**E. Possibility of Detention:** The Defendant may be subject to immediate detention pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3143.

**F. Fines and Costs of Incarceration and Supervision:** The Court may impose a fine, costs of incarceration, and costs of supervision. The Defendant agrees that any fine imposed by the Court will be due and payable immediately.

**G. Forfeiture:** The Defendant agrees to forfeit all of the Defendant's interest in all items seized by law-enforcement officials during the course of their investigation. The Defendant admits that all United States currency, weapons, property, and assets seized by law enforcement officials during their investigation constitute the proceeds of the defendant's illegal activity, were commingled with illegal proceeds, or were used to facilitate the illegal activity. The Defendant agrees to execute any documents and take all steps needed to transfer title or ownership of said items to the United States and to rebut the claims of nominees and/or alleged third party owners. The Defendant further agrees that said items may be disposed of by law enforcement officials in any manner.

**9. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND WAIVER OF THE DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS:**

In pleading guilty, the Defendant acknowledges, fully understands and hereby waives his rights, including but not limited to: the right to plead not guilty to the charges; the right to be tried

by a jury in a public and speedy trial; the right to file pretrial motions, including motions to suppress or exclude evidence; the right at such trial to a presumption of innocence; the right to require the United States to prove the elements of the offenses charged against the Defendant beyond a reasonable doubt; the right not to testify; the right not to present any evidence; the right to be protected from compelled self-incrimination; the right at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses; the right to testify and present evidence and the right to compel the attendance of witnesses. The Defendant further understands that by this guilty plea, the Defendant expressly waives all the rights set forth in this paragraph.

The Defendant fully understands that the Defendant has the right to be represented by counsel, and if necessary, to have the Court appoint counsel at trial and at every other stage of the proceeding. The Defendant's counsel has explained these rights and the consequences of the waiver of these rights. The Defendant fully understands that, as a result of the guilty plea, no trial will, in fact, occur and that the only action remaining to be taken in this case is the imposition of the sentence.

The Defendant is fully satisfied with the representation received from defense counsel. The Defendant has reviewed the United States' evidence and discussed the United States' case and all possible defenses and defense witnesses with defense counsel. Defense counsel has completely and satisfactorily explored all areas which the Defendant has requested relative to the United States' case and any defenses.

**10. VOLUNTARY NATURE OF THE GUILTY PLEA AND PLEA AGREEMENT:**

This document constitutes the entire agreement between the Defendant and the United States, and no other promises or inducements have been made, directly or indirectly, by any agent

of the United States, including any Department of Justice attorney, concerning any plea to be entered in this case. In addition, the Defendant states that no person has, directly or indirectly, threatened or coerced the Defendant to do or refrain from doing anything in connection with any aspect of this case, including entering a plea of guilty.

The Defendant acknowledges having voluntarily entered into both the plea agreement and the guilty plea. The Defendant further acknowledges that this guilty plea is made of the Defendant's own free will and that the Defendant is, in fact, guilty.

**11. CONSEQUENCES OF POST-PLEA MISCONDUCT:**

After pleading guilty and before sentencing, if the Defendant commits any crime, other than minor traffic offenses, violates any conditions of release that results in revocation, violates any term of this guilty-plea agreement, intentionally provides misleading, incomplete or untruthful information to the U.S. Probation Office or fails to appear for sentencing, the United States, at its option, may be released from its obligations under this agreement. The United States may also, in its discretion, proceed with this agreement and may advocate for any sentencing position supported by the facts, including but not limited to obstruction of justice and denial of acceptance of responsibility.

**12. NO RIGHT TO WITHDRAW GUILTY PLEA:**

Pursuant to Rule 11(c) and (d), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Defendant understands that there will be no right to withdraw the plea entered under this agreement, except where the Court rejects those portions of the plea agreement which deal with charges the United States agrees to dismiss or not to bring.

1/18/2022

Date

  
Jennifer L. Szczucinski  
Assistant United States Attorney

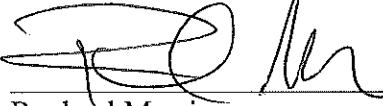
1-18-2022

Date

  
Keith Austin  
Defendant

1/18/22

Date

  
Raphael Morris  
Attorney for Defendant